

A NEW SPECIES OF *LASIANTHAEA* (ASTERACEAE, HELIANTHEAE)  
FROM SINALOA, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Lasianthaea ritovegana* B. Turner, is described and illustrated. It is related to *L. rosei* of Nayarit but differs in a number of characters including scapose habit, globose tubers, less reticulately veined leaves, and having sessile heads borne upon elongate naked peduncles.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, *Lasianthaea*, México, Sinaloa

Routine identification of Mexican Asteraceae has revealed the following novelty.

***Lasianthaea ritovegana* B. Turner, sp. nov.** Fig. 1. TYPE: MEXICO. Sinaloa: Mpio. de San Ignacio La Cebolla, ca. 40 km al N de San Ignacio, pine-oak woodland, rocky hillsides, ca. 1500 m, 20 Aug 1980, *Rito Vega A. & S. Palazuelos N. 819* (HOLOTYPE: TEX).

*Lasianthaeae rosei* Greenman similis sed differt habitu scaposo, foliis minus reticulatis, capitulis 3-5 sessilibus en pedunculo communi nudo 34-47 cm longo, et bracteis receptaculi apicibus anguste acutis.

Tuberous acaulescent herbs 35-50 cm high. Stems pilose below with multiseptate spreading hairs 1-2 mm long, the hairs ascending or strigose along the upper portions. Leaves 2-3 pairs at or near the base, 7-15 cm long, 3-5 cm wide; petioles 3-10 mm long, pubescent like the lower stems; blades elliptic, about equally tapering at both ends, pinnately veined, the undersurfaces sparsely pubescent with appressed hairs, these mostly along the veins, the

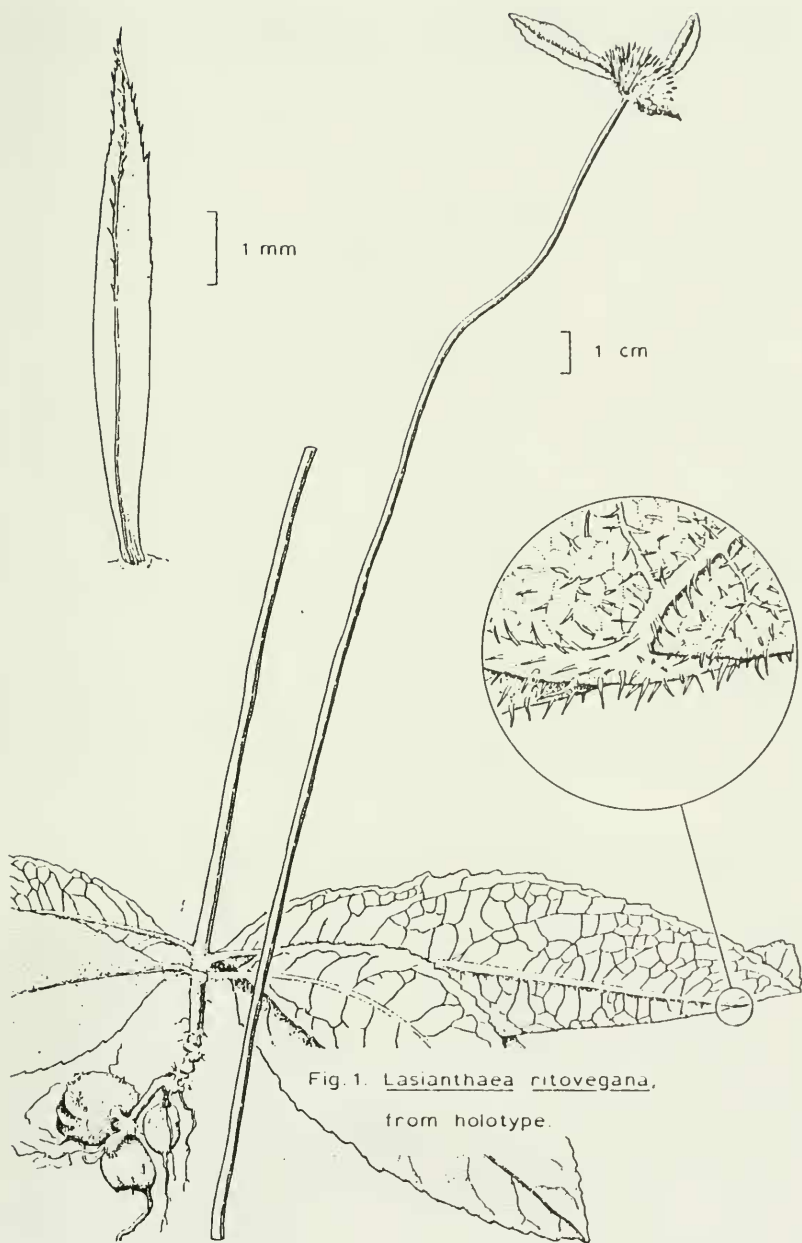


Fig. 1. *Lasianthaea ritovegana*,  
from holotype.

margins irregularly serrate. Heads 3-5, sessile in leaflike bracts, the whole unit borne upon a naked peduncle 34-47 cm long. Involucres campanulate, 7-9 mm high, the bracts 3-4 seriate, subgraduate, elliptical, chartaceous, brownish with purple, ciliate apices. Receptacle convex, the pales with rigid, narrowly acute, ciliate, purple apices. Ray florets 5-8, pistillate, fertile, the ligules 3-6 mm long, ca. 3 mm wide. Disk florets ca. 20-40, the corollas ca. 6.5 mm long, purplish, glabrous except for the hispidulous lobes. Anthers purple, the appendages yellow. Achenes of ray florets (immature) 3 sided and obviously winged, the disk achenes immature.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN EXAMINED: MEXICO. Sinaloa: Mpio. Cosalá, el Camichín a 3 km al poniente de Guadalupe de los Reyes, tropical deciduous forest, 500-700 m, 21 Sep 1989, *Rito Vega A. 3492* (TEX).

*Lasianthaea ritovegana* is closely related to *L. rosei* of Nayarit. It differs from the latter in having less reticulately veined leaves which are confined to the very base of the stem, and heads borne sessile on a common peduncle 34-47 cm long. Additionally, the tubers are globose in *L. ritovegana* (vs. fusiform) and the receptacular bracts have narrowly acute apices (vs. obtuse or rounded apices).

It is a pleasure to name this attractive herb for its principal collector, Rito Vega A., Curator of Herbarium CHDIR, Cd. Durango.

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